Condolences letter from Nannie Alice Burkey

August 18, 1944

Dear ones all

Ira just called and told us about Cora. I haven't sent card yet, but so sad-do you know if she had been sick, or what trouble was. I couldn't think where they were living now, had Milt say but didn't seem like it was Bronson. So, that is reason I had you send word to them. I am ok, just stunned and can hardly realize so many around but guess next week will be plenty lonely for me. Nelle & Frank leave here Monday a.m. unless we get word boys will be here soon. Haven't heard from any of them yet. Sent 2 cablegrams to each one. Tried to get them leave thru Red Cross. Bob is in suburbs of Paris and Dick in Italy just waiting transportation home. We held Milt's body till the 11th but, decided no use to wait longer. So had burial service last Saturday. I expect you all wondered why I buried here, well I expect to always make this my home & children will all be here but, the girls-and is such a beautiful cemetery & keeps up so nice. Blue grass all over, and didn't feel I could make trip back just can't ride. Nelle will be there next week & tell you all about the accident. He lived 28 hours I stayed at hospital & took care of him. We had him down there in an hour, but didn't realize he was hurt so bad. Took him down for x-ray pictures. Skin wasn't broken & didn't think it was bad , walked to house with Bill's help. But began throwing up blood in 2 hours, and suffered terrible . They didn't give a thing for pain ,wanted more pictures. Couldn't even have a drink. Was so bad by morning decided to operate took 6 blood test, had 3 doctors. As soon as they cut in his lung collapsed. They used oxygen and finished but, he was gone in 15 minutes. The pancreas was crushed Dr. said that alone would have finished it. Then diaphragm was busted clear across, intestine had two holes- arteries going heart cut in two {Dr.s couldn't understand why he didn't bleed to death.} and large muscles to lower extremities was cut right in two. Well I can't write more now, but will write again soon. Did any of you go back to Cora's funeral?

Love Nannie

Ben is on Luzan close to Manila. Nelle will be in Harper about Tues. or Wed.

Ben -

I had looked for these letters, as I had told you I would send you copies. I couldn't find them at the time. I don't know why, as I found them this morning right where they should have been. So - here they are. I reread every word, and it was a heartbreaking thing to lose your dad like that.

Aunt Cora died on Aug. 14, just a couple of weeks after your dad. Your mother refers to that in her letter. I was very touched to read these letters. You should share with your daughters.

I am going to Michigan tomorrow to celebrate 2 granddaughters' birthdays. Nadine is 20, and Maria is 16. Both very good kids. Will be gone about a week.

Hope you are healthy!

Sincerely,
Your Cousin
Sharon (Witt) Downs

[illegible] hundred dear ones, interesting book this week - have Arden [illegible] with us - (Mrs. Corbett [illegible] when he didn't feel so tired) and [illegible] to [illegible] - it's cut right in to.

Well I can't write more now, so I will write again soon.

Did you go to the [illegible]

Love

Bess is on Lungs Class so Mrs. Nelle will be in Harper about June or not.

Aug 18 – 43-

Dear ones all

Jno. just called and told us about Cora. I haven't seen card yet. but. so sad – do you know if she had been sick. or what trouble was. I couldn't think where they were living now, had heard Milt say. but. didn't seem like it was Benson. So, that is reason I had you send word to them. I am O.K. just slaving and can hardly realize. So many around. But, guess next wk. will be plenty lonely for me. Nelle & Frank leave here Mon. 1 P.M. unless we get word boys will be here soon. Haven't heard from any of them yet – Sent 2 cablegrams to each one – tried to get them home thru Red Cross. Bob is in Suburbs of Paris and Dick in Italy just waiting transportation home. We held Milt's body till the 11th but. decided no use to wait longer. So had service last Sat. I expect you all wondered why I buried here, help

I expect is always make this
my home & children will all
be here but the girls - and is
such a beautiful Evening & here
all so nice. Blue grass all over.
And didn't feel I could make it
back just can't ride.
Will will be there next week. &
[illegible] all about the accident.
H[illegible] 23 lbs. & stood it fine...
& last one 5 pounds. We had it
down there I'm sure. but didn't
realize he was hurt so bad. Took
him down for pictures. Skin was off
knees & he didn't think it was bad,
worked in house with Bill both.
But heart thumping up below [illegible] in
2 days. Used [illegible]
Then didn't give them for pain
worked more [illegible]
have a dime. Was so [illegible]
movies, decided to spend [illegible]
6 [illegible] tests - H[illegible] 3 dollars.
As soon as they cut in, his
lung collapsed. Then used oxygen
and [illegible] but he was gone in
15 min. The pressure was cracked
Dr. said that alone would have
finished it. Then telephone